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ABSTRACT

Millions of children in the United States are left in inadequate day care situations every day or live in poverty because their parents cannot afford day care and therefore cannot work. The number of working mothers is rising, and these mothers deserve high quality day care and after-school care for their children. This publication lists important facts about day care in the United States, namely: (1) the American people support a public commitment to child care; (2) the current child care system in the United States does not meet the needs of working families; (3) many families simply cannot afford adequate child care; (4) child care is an essential part of the solution to helping parents become self-sufficient; (5) preschool programs help children become successful students and productive adults. In spite of the existence of tax credits, current federal support for families is extremely limited, especially since Title XX funds have been reduced. Child care standards are set by individual states, and their benefits vary widely. Thus the private sector, which includes the 70 member organizations of the Alliance for Better Child Care (ABC), is taking on a larger role in child care. The goal of ABC is to devise and implement a plan that would make affordable, appropriate, high-quality child care more readily available to working parents who need it. ABC has introduced into Congress a proposed Act for Better Child Care. A list of ABC members concludes the document. (SKC)

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Child Care: The Time Is Now
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Linda Grant lived in Dade County, Florida, with her children, three-year-old Anthony and four-year-old Maurice. Although she worked to support her family, her income was so low that Ms. Grant could not afford to pay for child care. Since she qualified for government assistance, she put her name on Florida's waiting list for child care support—a list that included 22,000 other names.

Ms. Grant was told it would be one-and-a-half to two years before she could expect any government help. In the meantime, she did the best she could. She relied on friends and relatives to care for her children. Some days these arrangements fell through and Ms. Grant was forced to leave the boys on their own. On one such day Anthony and Maurice climbed into a seemingly cozy place—a clothes dryer—to look at a magazine. When they shut the door, they tumbled and burned to death.

Nothing will bring back Anthony and Maurice. But what about the millions of other children who are left in inadequate day care situations every day? Or the millions of children who must live in poverty because their parents cannot afford day care and therefore cannot work?

America is in the midst of a child care crisis. While we struggle to find a solution to this problem, the crisis grows. Less than a year after Ms. Grant's children died, the waiting list in Florida for assistance has climbed to 26,400. Around the country, the news is equally distressing:

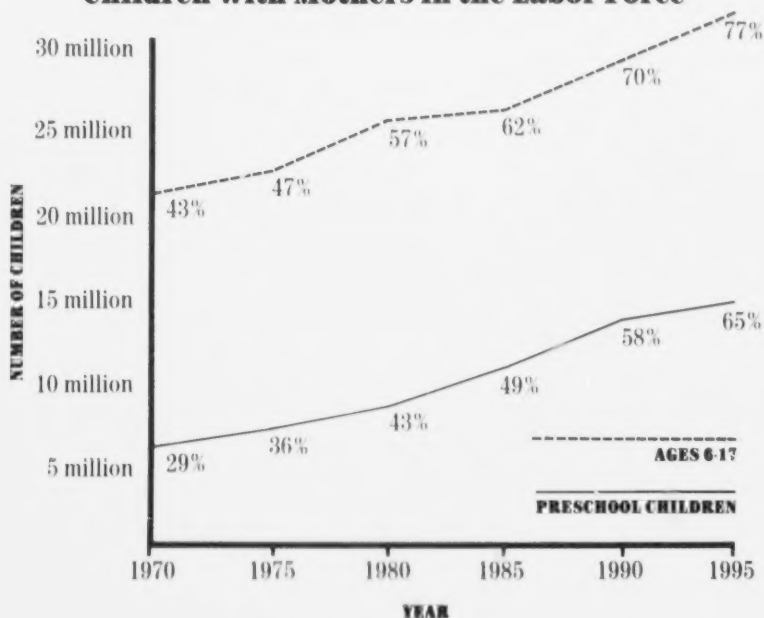
- In Washtenaw County, Michigan, the demand for infant care exceeds the available supply by as much as three to one.
- In Des Moines, Iowa, the number of children needing child care is 47,000, but existing child care facilities can accommodate only 12,076.
- In Seattle, Washington, licensed day care facilities have space for only 8,800 of the 23,000 children who need child care.
- Even in the hospital industry, which has a significant number of work-site child care centers, need far exceeds supply. In a survey of 129 hospitals conducted in the spring of 1987, centers reported serving 12,336 children while having 7,988 more on their waiting lists. Most shocking were the figures for infants: two out of three babies were turned away.

Out of sheer desperation, too many parents leave their children in situations that they realize are far less than satisfactory—if not dangerous. Low-income parents in particular face the painful choice of placing their

Key Facts: Working Mothers

- Half of all married mothers with infants younger than one year old are in the work force—a 108 percent increase since 1970.
- By 1995, two-thirds of all preschool children will have mothers in the work force. Four out of five school-age children will have working mothers by 1995.
- In 1985, 45 percent of the working mothers of newborn children were employed in clerical and sales jobs, 31 percent in blue collar service jobs, and only 24 percent in higher paying professional and managerial jobs.
- In 1985, 84 percent of black working mothers, 69 percent of white working mothers, and 79 percent of Hispanic working mothers worked full time.
- Mothers work out of economic necessity. A 1983 *New York Times* poll reported that “for 71 percent of mothers who work the primary reason was not for something interesting to do but to support their families.”
- Between 1967 and 1985, wives' contributions to family income increased from 10.6 percent to 18 percent for white families with children, from 19.4 percent to 30 percent for black families with children, and from 14.4 percent to 20 percent for Hispanic families with children.
- The average income of two-parent families with children dropped 3.1 percent between 1973 and 1984. This decrease would have been more than three times greater (9.5 percent) had mothers not increased their participation in the work force.

Children With Mothers in the Labor Force



children in potentially harmful situations or forgoing work and training opportunities because they cannot afford child care. Even employers suffer as their employees become increasingly distracted by child care worries or are absent because of child care problems.

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Of course, no one suffers more than the young children who are denied the valuable experiences and support that quality child care offers. Good child care ensures that children are safe, healthy, and well nourished. It also provides them with the foundation they need to build toward success in school.

School-age children benefit from child care programs that offer key social and developmental opportunities for friendship, recreational play, and extra tutoring. While a growing number of communities recognize the value of such programs, most children have little access to before- and after-school child care. Instead, millions of school-age children are left frightened and alone, before and after school and during the long summer months. Children as young as eight or nine are given the overwhelming responsibility of caring for their younger brothers and sisters.

The future of our nation depends on the strength of its young people. We know that a majority of children will spend a significant part of their early years in child care settings. We must make certain that these settings provide all children with the support essential to their growth and development. We can do no less for these children, nor for the future health, strength, and economic competitiveness of our country.

The Facts About Child Care

As the number of children with working mothers has grown, there has been no corresponding increase in our society's commitment to quality child care. While, of course, mothers should be free to stay at home with their young children, we don't have the support systems that let more make that choice. In any event, more mothers have gone to work and this trend will continue. Though there are a small number of exceptions, the day care needs of millions of working parents are being largely neglected by the federal government, state and local governments, and employers.

To build an adequate child care system in this country, we need a much stronger private-state-federal partnership. Such a system would benefit children, parents, and society. There are a number of reasons why the time has come to move ahead with this partnership.

1. The American People Support a Public Commitment to Child Care

Recent surveys indicate that Americans recognize the need for a public investment in child care and that citizens are willing to make that investment.

- In a 1987 poll conducted by ABC News for the *Washington Post*, 57 percent of the respondents felt child care programs should be increased, compared to 44 percent the year before.
- In a recent Harris Poll, 73 percent of the respondents indicated they would be willing to increase their taxes to pay for child care.
- A 1986 poll conducted by the Daniel Yankelovich Group for the American Association of Retired Persons found that the American people view children as the group most in need of government help.
- Seventy-one percent of parents surveyed by the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) agreed that the government should develop policies to make child care more available and affordable for parents who need or want to work.

4 2. The Current Child Care System in the United States Does Not Meet the Needs of Working Families

A growing number of working families are dissatisfied with their child care arrangements and say child care problems adversely affect their work.

- In a *Fortune* magazine study of 400 parents with children younger than 12, child care dissatisfaction was the most reliable predictor of absenteeism and unproductive work time.

- In a study of 5,000 workers at five midwestern corporations, 58 percent of the women and 33 percent of the men with young children felt their child care concerns affected their time at work in unproductive ways.

- Three in 10 parents surveyed by AFSCME feared the child care they could afford was not of high quality. Twenty-eight percent of those with children 12 or younger gave up a job or a promotion because of lack of child care.

- A recent Census Bureau study reported that one in 20 working parents was absent from work in the one month previous to the study because of child care problems.

- A survey of 762 employees of Virginia-based Dominion Bankshares Corp. showed that 56 percent of respondents had difficulty in arranging quality child care.

What Child Care Costs Weekly in Selected Major Cities

(Average, November 1985)

CITY	AGE OF CHILD	FAMILY DAY CARE	CENTER CARE	IN-HOME CARE
Boston	(0-3)	\$115	\$120	\$260-340
	(3-5)	\$115	\$100	
New York	(0-3)	\$ 90	\$120	\$165-500
	(3-5)	\$ 85	\$ 85	
Atlanta	(0-3)	\$ 50	\$ 55	\$165-250
	(3-5)	\$ 45	\$ 55	
St. Louis	(0-3)	\$ 55	\$ 75	\$165-180
	(3-5)	\$ 40	\$ 50	
Dallas	(0-3)	\$ 60	\$ 75	\$165-200
	(3-5)	\$ 60	\$ 60	
Denver	(0-3)	\$ 75	\$ 80	\$180-240
	(3-5)	\$ 60	\$ 60	
San Francisco	(0-3)	\$ 80	\$115	\$160-200
	(3-5)	\$ 70	\$ 85	
Average of Seven Cities	(0-3)	\$ 75 (\$325/month)	\$ 91 (\$394/month)	
	(3-5)	\$ 68 (\$294/month)	\$ 71 (\$308/month)	

Sources: Prepared by Deborah Phillips, University of Virginia. Cost estimates were provided by staff of each city's major child care resource and referral agency. Cost will vary throughout each city. Suburban child care is usually more expensive and was not included in these estimates. Costs refer to full day child care.

3. Many Families Simply Cannot Afford Adequate Child Care

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The typical cost of full-time child care in America's major cities and suburbs is \$3,000 a year for one child. That equals one-third of the annual poverty-level income for a family of three. With two children in care, a family of four with poverty-level wages would have to spend more than half its total income on child care—an expenditure that would mean going without other necessities such as food, shelter, or clothing.

4. Child Care Is an Essential Part of the Solution to Helping Parents Become Self-Sufficient

There is a broad consensus among Americans that our welfare system is deeply flawed and must be improved. Federal and state legislators are working to find ways to help poor and unemployed persons move from the welfare rolls to job rolls. Studies show that lack of child care is a key reason many parents don't work or can work only part time.

- In a 1986 survey of welfare participants by the National Social Science and Law Center, nearly two-thirds of those responding cited difficulties with

Percentage of Income that Low-Income Parents Would Have to Pay for Child Care

FAMILIES	ONE CHILD IN CHILD CARE (AVERAGE COST: \$3,000/yr)	TWO CHILDREN IN CHILD CARE (AVERAGE COST: \$6,000/yr)
One parent working full time at minimum wage (\$6,700 annual income)	45 Percent	90 Percent
One parent working full time, earning poverty-level wages for a family of three (\$9,300 annual income)	32 Percent	65 Percent
Two parents working full time at minimum wage (\$13,400 annual income)	22 Percent	45 Percent
A single mother with at least one child under six, earning the median wage for that group (\$6,400 annual income)	47 Percent	94 Percent
A couple aged 18 to 24 with the median earnings for their age group (\$16,000 annual income)	19 Percent	38 Percent

- 6 child care arrangements as the primary problem in seeking and keeping jobs; 76 percent of the women surveyed who had given up job hunting cited child care problems as the reason.

- According to the U.S. General Accounting Office, about 60 percent of Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) work program respondents were prevented from participating in work programs because of lack of child care.

- Almost 35 percent of women working at or looking for part-time jobs said they would work longer hours if child care were available, according to the National Association of Working Women.

Child care allows unemployed parents to work and allows working parents to work more. As income increases, families move from welfare to economic self-sufficiency. For this reason, a public investment in child care is cost-effective.

Providing child care assistance to low-income working families so that they can be self-sufficient costs only 38 percent of what it costs to provide AFDC and Medicaid benefits, according to the Colorado Department of Social Services.

- In Massachusetts, almost half of the participants in a child care program designed to help low-income women get off welfare were able to stop receiving AFDC.

- Research on the links between child care and economic self-sufficiency among low-income families living in public housing revealed that a 50 percent increase in the size of an on-site child care center would result in a 13.5 percent rise in hours worked and a 19.5 percent jump in residents' earnings.

- Seventy-seven percent of needy Kansas City, Missouri, parents who received child care assistance reported income increases averaging about \$2,000 per year, according to an evaluation of children enrolled in Kansas City's Child Development Corporation.

5. Preschool Programs Help Children Become Successful Students and Productive Adults

High quality preschool and early childhood development programs can provide children from low-income families with the foundation they need to learn basic educational skills and eventually lead more productive lives.

As the population of the country ages, the percentage of children and young adults shrinks. This decline, which is expected to continue into the next century, will result in a smaller proportion of Americans entering the work force. Our country will depend more heavily on the skills of every young worker. In 1978, 16- to 24-year-olds made up 26.8 percent of the total working age population; by 2005, that figure will fall to 19.2 percent.

But of today's children, who will make up this future labor force:

- One in four is poor.
- One in three is nonwhite, and, of these, 40 percent are poor.
- One in five is at risk of becoming a teen parent.
- One in seven is at risk of dropping out of school.

Business and government leaders have begun to recognize that early childhood development programs get children off to a good start and can be an economical way to help low-income youngsters overcome early disadvantages.

- The Research and Policy Committee of the business-led Committee for Economic Development, for example, firmly supports a public investment in such programs for low-income children, and finds that the benefits far outweigh the costs.

- In a recent article, *Fortune* magazine strongly supported including comprehensive early childhood development programs, such as Head Start, in

the child care component of any welfare alternative (or "workfare") programs.

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According to *Opportunities for Success: Cost Effective Programs for Children*, a staff report of the House Select Committee on Children, Youth, and Families, one dollar invested in preschool education returns \$4.75 in savings because of lower special education and welfare costs, and higher worker productivity.

Due to lack of income and inadequate government support, children from low-income families are less than half as likely to attend preschool programs as their more advantaged peers. Fewer than 33 percent of the four-year-olds and 17 percent of the three-year-olds whose families had incomes of less than \$10,000 a year in 1985 were enrolled in preschool programs. In contrast, 67 percent of four-year-olds and 54 percent of three-year-olds whose families earned \$35,000 or more a year attended preschool.

A positive early childhood development experience helps low-income children begin school on more equal footing with their advantaged peers and improves their ability to gain the basic skills necessary to their future success.

The Federal Role in Child Care

Extremely limited federal support currently exists for families that must pay for child care. The primary vehicles for aid are the Title XX Social Services Block Grant and the federal income tax system.

Title XX

There is no federal program whose sole purpose is to provide direct assistance to help families pay for child care. Most direct federal assistance that does exist comes through the Title XX Social Services Block Grant. This program gives states money to use for a variety of social services for low- and moderate-income people. Although states, on average, currently devote about 18 percent of this money to child care programs, their individual commitments vary widely.

While the need for child care assistance for low- and moderate-income

Basic Skills: Links to Poverty, Productivity, and Potential

The ability to read and compute has been found to be a key factor in determining whether young people will succeed in school and beyond. More than three-quarters of all poor youths are below average in these basic skills. A recent study indicates a correlation between basic skills deficiencies and a diverse range of problems as youths enter adulthood.

- Children who by age 18 have the weakest basic skills (in the lowest fifth among their peers) are more likely to be both out of work and out of school than those with above-average basic skills. They are three times more likely to become parents at the age of 16 to 19.

- The level of basic academic skills makes a difference even among young adults with the same amount of schooling. High school dropouts with strong basic skills have average earnings more than twice as great as dropouts with weak basic skills.

Source: Analysis of Current Population Survey and National Longitudinal Survey of Young Americans data by Dr. Andrew Sum, Director of Northeastern University's Center for Labor Market Statistics.

- 8 families grows, Title XX is a shrinking pie—sliced in half over the past decade by budget cuts and inflation. Even before cuts were made in 1982, child care programs using Title XX money served only 14 percent of the 3.4 million children younger than six living in poverty. Two years later, there were 4.9 million children in that age group and less money to spend.

Federal Tax Credits

In recent years, the dependent care tax credit has become the largest federal effort to help families pay for child care. The credit allows a family to deduct between 20 and 30 percent of its annual child care expenses (up to \$2,400 for one child or \$4,800 for two or more) from its federal income taxes. The lower a family's income, the larger percentage it may deduct. In 1984, 7.5 million families used the credit and deducted just over \$2.6 billion. Less than half that amount went to families earning less than \$25,000 a year.

The credit works fairly well for taxpayers who earn enough to have substantial tax liabilities but is of no practical use to poor families. For families living below or near the poverty level, a tax break is no break at all. Their tax liability is so low—particularly after the tax reform law takes full effect in 1988—that having a credit to subtract from taxes provides no relief.

A second tax subsidy, the flexible benefit plan, is probably the fastest

Key Facts: Effects of Title XX Funding Cuts

- Twenty-nine states spent less money for Title XX child care programs in 1986 than in 1981, even though the numbers of low-income working families had increased significantly.
- In Florida: In one recent 90-day period in three counties (Orange, Osceola, and Seminole), the following were refused help due to lack of funds: nine abused children; 176 children whose mothers applied for an employment training program but remained on welfare because they lacked child care help; 200 children whose AFDC mothers had found jobs but couldn't work because of child care problems; six children of migrant farm workers who had to take them to dangerous work sites; and 2,073 children whose families were eligible for child care assistance to keep them from needing AFDC.
- In California: Fewer than 10 percent of the 1.1 million eligible children who are 14 or younger can be served at the state's current level of child care funding.
- In Georgia: Of the 137,000 children who have working mothers, 76,000 are eligible for Title XX-funded child care services, but only 8,000 can be served with existing funds.
- In Louisiana: The state cut its day care budget by 11 percent (or \$1.2 million) in 1986. Before the cut, the state could serve only about 4,000 children. Nine thousand families are on the waiting list for child care.
- In Pennsylvania: Only 20,000 of the 300,000 Pennsylvania children who needed child care assistance received it in 1984.
- In Wisconsin: More than 3,500 children are on waiting lists for child care assistance.
- A recent survey of 230 public housing projects with child care centers found waiting lists with 96,000 children on them.

growing form of federal child care help. Under this plan, people who work for a participating employer can reduce their taxable income by up to \$5,000 to cover the cost of child care. The money is held in a special account and is used to pay the employee's child care expenses.

The flexible benefit plan allows families in higher tax brackets to net amounts that are often significantly greater than the benefits provided by the other federal child care programs. But rarely would the plan help a family earning less than \$20,000. As a tax incentive alternative, it is of little use to poor or even moderate-income families.

Neither of these federal tax breaks helps low-income families get the aid they need to enter and stay in the job market. Families living below or near the poverty level most frequently need direct assistance—funds paid to them or

State Child Care Standards

The federal government has abandoned efforts to set standards for child care programs receiving federal funds. State child care standards vary widely and are often so inadequate that they threaten the well-being of the children being served.

- Although research shows that the size of a group is the key to learning, health, and safety, 32 states do not regulate group size for preschoolers and 26 states do not regulate size for infants.

- While staff training is critical for quality care, 20 states require no ongoing training for teachers in day care centers and 35 require none for home providers of family care. In 22 states, no training is necessary for teachers before they come to work in day care centers and seven states require no training of any kind whatsoever.

- Fifteen states have no specific health training requirements for staff of day care centers and 16 states do not require staff handwashing even after diapering or before food is served to children, though such basic measures are the first step in preventing the transmission of disease.

- The right to visit at any time allows parents to assess the safety and quality of a child care program. However, 33 states do not have regulations guaranteeing unlimited parental access to child care centers, and 39 states do not guarantee access to family day care homes.

- The National Association for the Education of Young Children recommends that no more than three infants should be cared for by one person, enabling the caregiver to pay adequate attention to each infant's feeding needs and safety. Only three states (Kansas, Maryland, and Massachusetts) require the one-to-three ratio. In 21 states a single person may take care of anywhere from five to eight infants.

Standards *do* make a difference for children. A recent study of child abuse and neglect in North Carolina's day care programs found that complaints against unregistered family day care providers were three times as likely to be severe as those against registered homes. Furthermore, child care centers subject to lower standards and less monitoring were five times as likely to be the subject of serious complaints as programs that met higher standards and were monitored more frequently.

- 10 their child care providers—to meet child care costs. But while federal tax benefits have grown markedly in the past decade, direct assistance through Title XX has declined sharply.

The State Role in Child Care

The reduction in Title XX aid has severely hindered state governments in their efforts to provide adequate child care programs. Some states have used their own money to supplement Title XX funding, but this added revenue has not been enough to offset federal cutbacks. In fact, nearly half the states offer Title XX child care to fewer children than they did in 1981. Only 15 states are now serving more children.

State efforts at best are uneven and depend more on the health of each state's economy than on its child care needs. States with stronger economies, such as Massachusetts and New York, have taken some positive steps, while others with weaker economies, like Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, and Louisiana, have reduced their commitments to child care in spite of the growing need.

In states where progress has been made, nearly all new efforts are too small and fragmented to build a sensible pattern of services for poor working families, much less for working families in general. A good example is state efforts to

Child Care Workers' Salaries are Lower Than Animal Caretakers' Wages

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, two out of every three child care workers earn below poverty wages, regardless of their experience, training, or education. The median annual income of full-time child care workers in 1984 was \$9,204 for those employed in educational and social services settings and \$4,402 for those working in private households. Child care providers are paid less per hour than animal caretakers, bartenders, or parking lot attendants.

More than 2 million people, most of them women, are employed to care for our children. The extraordinarily low salaries paid to child care providers make it increasingly difficult to find qualified staff for the growing number of children who need child care. Turnover in child care centers averages 42 percent a year and the rate is even higher among family day care providers. As a result, young children who need security and stability constantly must adjust to new caregivers.

A study of New York day care worker salaries and benefits by the Center for Public Advocacy Research chronicles the frustrations of child care directors and caregivers:

- "The Catch-22 is that we must either lower our standards in terms of the employees we hire or raise salaries to attract and retain staff. Lowering standards directly affects the quality of child care and puts children at risk. Raising salaries raises tuition beyond what parents can afford to pay without subsidization."

- "A little over a year ago, I had a teacher position open. In approximately two months I went through four different teachers who all found higher-paying jobs within a couple of weeks after starting with us."

develop preschool programs for four-year-olds. Several states have begun new preschool initiatives that are supposed to benefit working parents. Since these programs are only funded for part of the day, many parents working full time cannot participate.

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The Role of the Private Sector

Private organizations are taking on a larger role in child care. As a group, churches are the single largest provider of child care in the United States. The United Way of America has made the funding of child care programs one of its priorities. A recent survey of 415 United Way chapters revealed that \$36 million had been invested in these programs.

Some employers have increased their investment in child care. The number of employers providing some type of assistance to their employees has risen 400 percent in the past four years. Still, only 3,000 out of 6 million American employers provide any child care help at all. Child care is the least frequently offered of all employee benefits.

These 3,000 employers offer a number of services. They may sponsor lunchtime seminars on parenting, help employees find child care or, in a limited number of cases, establish on-site child care centers. The most typical benefit is referral to outside child care services. Most of the employers who offer on-site child care are hospitals that find the benefit a useful way to recruit nurses. Very few employers actually help employees pay for child care.

On-site child care centers may sound like the best answer to America's child care problem, but even these have a number of limitations. A recent article in *Fortune* magazine pointed out that these centers have few openings and some employees get preferential treatment. Manufacturers tend to locate day care centers at headquarters where their higher-paid employees work, and often no child care is available at the factories. One child care management consultant was quoted as saying that people using the centers are "well-paid professionals who can afford the fees."

The Alliance for Better Child Care

In an effort to increase parents' child care options through a solid federal-state-private partnership, more than 70 national organizations have formed the Alliance for Better Child Care (ABC). ABC includes unions, religious groups, women's groups, child welfare and education associations, and public policy and advocacy organizations all concerned with the welfare of America's children and working families. ABC members share a set of principles regarding an improved child care system.

ABC's goal is to devise and implement a plan that would make affordable, appropriate, high quality child care more readily available to working parents who need it.

One keystone of that plan, the Act for Better Child Care Services, is being introduced in Congress in the fall of 1987. The Act calls for a \$2.5 billion first year investment to bring the federal government more fully into a child care partnership with states and the private sector.

To meet its child care responsibilities, the federal government will have to commit substantial new funds. Despite the tremendous resistance to new federal spending, we must face this country's child care needs head on. There is

The Act for Better Child Care Services

The Act for Better Child Care Services would provide states with new federal funds to:

- Make child care more *affordable* for low- and moderate-income families.
- Increase the number of child care facilities and qualified day care staff to make services *available* to all families.
- Improve the *quality* of day care services, help coordinate child care resources, and encourage a range of day care options so parents can find appropriate services for their children.

Affordability

The Act would:

- Provide states with funds to provide child care assistance to working families earning less than 115 percent of the state's median income, adjusted for family size. The amount of assistance would depend on the family's income; families with lower incomes would get more help.
- Allow states to provide the assistance both through contracts with child care providers and certificates given directly to parents.

Availability

Under the Act, federal funds would help states increase the number of child care facilities and qualified providers by:

- Encouraging states to establish grant and low-interest loan programs to start and broaden child care services.
- Allowing a portion of the funds to be used to recruit and train new family day care providers.
- Devoting a portion of the new child care funds to existing state and local early childhood development, Head Start, and Chapter One programs, and preschool programs for the handicapped, so they can extend their hours of service beyond part-day. The extended hours would better meet the needs of parents with full-time jobs.
- Making available funds for developing local resource and referral programs to link parents with child care services.

Quality

The Act would help states improve the quality of child care by:

- Making available to states funds for training and technical assistance for child care providers.
- Requiring states to review and update their child care licensing standards periodically.
- Requiring states to meet minimum child care standards in key areas affecting children's health and well-being.
- Allowing funds to be used to help providers meet child care standards.
- Making funds available to help states improve compliance with child care standards by training and hiring additional staff to monitor child care programs.
- Establishing consumer education programs to help parents make wise child care choices, and setting up state child care "hotlines" for additional child care information.

no way we can help the millions of families that cannot afford child care or improve the quality of child care without a significant infusion of new resources.

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Further information about ABC or the Act for Better Child Care Services can be obtained from the organizations listed on the last pages of this brochure or the Child Care Division at the Children's Defense Fund (122 C Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001, 202/628-8787).

ABC Members

American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy
American Association of Psychiatric Services for Children
American Association of University Women
Americans for Democratic Action
American Federation of State, County, and
Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO
American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO
American Home Economics Association
American Jewish Committee
American Psychological Association
American Public Welfare Association
Association of Junior Leagues, Inc.
Bakery, Confectionery, and Tobacco Workers International Union
B'nai B'rith Women, Inc.
Camp Fire, Inc.
CATALYST
Catholic Charities, USA
Center for Law and Social Policy
Child Care Action Campaign
Child Care Employees' Project
Child Care Nutrition Program Sponsors' Forum
Child Welfare League of America
Children's Defense Fund
Christian Children's Fund, Inc.
Church of the Brethren
Church Women United
Coalition of Labor Union Women
Communication Workers of America, AFL-CIO
Council for Early Childhood Professional Recognition
Family Resource Coalition
Food Research Action Center
General Board of Church and Society of the
United Methodist Church
Girls Clubs of America, Inc.
High/Scope Educational Research Foundation
International Ladies Garment Workers' Union
Lutheran Office for Government Affairs
Mexican American Women's National Association
NA'AMAT USA
National Association of Child Care Resource and
Referral Agencies (NACCRRA)
National Association for Family Day Care
National Association for the Education of Young Children
National Association of Commissions for Women
National Association of Community Action Agencies

National Association of Early Childhood Specialists in State
 Departments of Education
 National Association of Elementary School Principals
 National Association of Hospital Affiliated Child Care Programs
 National Association of School Psychologists
 National Association of Working Women—9 to 5
 National Black Child Development Institute, Inc.
 National Center for Clinical Infant Programs
 National Child Abuse Coalition
 National Coalition for Campus Child Care, Inc.
 National Committee for the Prevention of Child Abuse
 National Congress of Parents and Teachers
 National Council of Catholic Women
 National Council of Jewish Women
 National Council of La Raza
 National Council of Negro Women
 National Council of the Churches of Christ,
 Child Advocacy Project
 National Council on Family Relations
 National Education Association
 National Federation of Business and Professional
 Women's Clubs, Inc.
 National Head Start Association
 National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council
 National Network of Runaway and Youth Services
 National Puerto Rican Forum
 National Women's Law Center
 NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund
 Presbyterian Church (USA)
 Save the Children
 Service Employees International Union, AFL-CIO
 Southern Association on Children Under Six
 The Children's Foundation
 United Church Board for Homeland Ministries
 United Church of Christ Coordination Center for Women's Issues
 United Church of Christ, Office for Church in Society
 United Food and Commercial Workers Union
 United Way of America
 Women's Equity Action League
 Women's Legal Defense Fund
 YMCA of the USA
 YWCA of the USA, National Board



Children's Defense Fund
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